

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Irish Affairs - 107th Congress

As a member of the Bipartisan Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is a strong advocate for promoting the peace process in Ireland.

PROMOTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

As an Irish American, Congresswoman McCarthy is excited by the developments in Northern Ireland. She has worked diligently with the International Women's Democracy Center (IWDC) and Peoples College in Belfast to train Northern Irish women leaders on how to build relationships with recently-elected legislators of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The IWDC program also trains the Irish women how to advocate for issues and how to manage issue-based campaigns.

As part of this program, participants travel to Washington D.C. to participate in a two-week practical, hands-on skills training workshop. The first week includes training on the advocacy process, the legislative calendar and how to build relationships with legislators. In the second week, participants are partnered with a Washington lobbyist to learn how advocate and policy makers interact.

Since the program's inception, Congresswoman McCarthy:

- ✓ Teams up with Congressman Peter King to deliver a presentation "How to Lobby Us;"
- ✓ Participates as a host and recruits other Members of Congress to host an Irish woman on "Shadow a Member of Congress Day;"
- ✓ Hosted a Members Briefing with Bronaugh Hinds, the Director of Ulsters People College and founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. Ms. Hinds was a instrumental voice in the Peace Process and authored several parts of the Good Friday Agreement.

Further, Congresswoman McCarthy strongly supports:

- ✓ **H.RES.132, 1981 Hunger Strike Recognition Resolution**, recognizing the historical significance o the sacrifices made by the Irish Republican hunger strikers in 1981, and the impact on the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

H.R. 1885, Immigration Extension bill, Congresswoman McCarthy worked hard to make this bill a law. It expands the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by extending the deadline for classification petition and labor certification filings, and other purposes.

Congresswoman McCarthy helped secure \$25 million to increase the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) in the current FY '02 Budget. This fund promotes economic and social advancement, encourages contact, dialogue, and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.

HELPING NORTHERN IRELAND

Finally, Congresswoman McCarthy supports the following legislative goals for Northern Ireland:

- √ Full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement
- √ Full implementation of the Patten Commission Recommendations, which is the only way to establish an effective policing service that protects all residents and arrests the perpetrators of this violence.
- √ Due to the overwhelming evidence of collusion between the Loyalist forces, who carried out the murders, and the police who have been charged with investigating the crimes, Congresswoman McCarthy calls for independent investigations into the murders of human rights lawyers Patrick Finucane, Rosemary Nelson, and many other citizens.